In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are presented below.

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

Newly added claims 13-16 are presented below.

13. (New) A method for determining a destination for a communication event received in a network having a network-level routing point to one of a plurality of destinations, each destination enabled to negotiate with the network-level routing point, the method comprising steps of:

(a) sending data pertaining to the communication event and a request for a destination to individual ones of the plurality of destinations;

(b) negotiating a final destination for the communication event between the network routing point and the individual destinations; and

(c) sending a response to the network level routing point, the response including a final destination for the communication event determined as a result of the negotiation.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 comprising a further step for sending the communication event to the negotiated final destination by the network-level routing point.

15. (New) A communication event distribution system for determining a destination for an incoming event received in a network including a network-level routing point to one of a plurality of potential destinations, each destination enabled to negotiate with the network-level routing point, wherein the network-level routing point broadcasts data pertaining to the communication event and a request for a destination to at least two of

the plurality of destinations and the at least two potential destinations negotiate amongst themselves and with the network level routing point to determine a final destination for the communication event based on destination routing rules and the data pertaining to the communication event, and at least one of the destinations responds to the network-level routing point with a destination for the communication event.

16. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the network-level routing point directs the communication event to the final destination returned by the at least one of the plurality of destinations.